

City of Riverside Human Relations Office

Civil Rights Watch

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Has this publication been helpful or informative to your office? Do you currently already have a mechanism for analyzing and distributing knowledge regarding legislative issues? How can we make this information more accessible to your organization?

We would like to hear from our readers as to the efficacy of this publication. Our underling question is: how can we serve you better? This publication is still in the experimental stages and we need to hear your voice to make modifications and improve upon our product. In addition to this publication, you should receive a survey and self-addressed, stamped envelope. We implore you to make use of these items to send us your feedback.

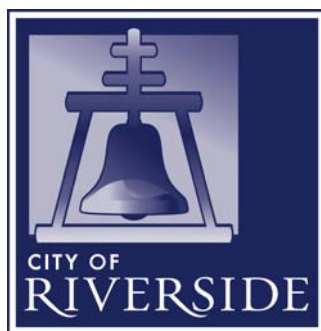
In addition, if your organization has a special event or meeting on the horizon, let us help you advertise, boast, or solicit help from your fellow Human Relations Commission leaders. With your survey, please send us any information that you propose be included in our next issue. Part of the goal of this publication is to increase our connectivity. To quote Lee Iacocca: *You can have brilliant ideas, but if you can't get them across, your ideas won't get you anywhere.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2005 CAHRO Conference
Monday, January 9, 2005 in Sacramento, CA

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Two Americas?

	Feb	Mar	Oct
Is American society divided into haves and have-nots?	04	05	05
Yes	38	38	48
No	59	59	50
Don't know	3	3	2
	100	100	100
Which are you?			
Haves	59	48	47
Have-nots	27	34	38
Neither (vol.)	7	8	11
Don't know	7	10	4
	100	100	100

Source: The Pew Research Center,
October 19, 2005

The following newspaper and legislative information was originally gathered to keep members of the Riverside Human Relations Commission up to date on issues that affect protected groups and the civil rights of all Americans. As our readership increased, so has the diversity of our source information. The primary source for much of our information is the Riverside local publication, The Press Enterprise; however, varied sources such as the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, and The San Francisco Chronicle have also been utilized.

Summary: Legislative and Court-related Actions

***This new section to the Civil Rights Watch offers a brief summary of the important approved legislation, as well as recent court decisions.*

A. Assembly panel rejects illegal immigration measures

San Francisco Chronicle, July 5, 2005

An Assembly committee rejected proposed constitutional amendments seeking to deny a series of benefits to illegal immigrants and create a state border police force, but both could resurface next year as ballot initiatives. The Judiciary Committee voted 4-2 Tuesday to turn down an amendment that would prevent illegal immigrants from receiving any health care or social services not required by federal law. The committee also voted 5-2 to reject an amendment that would create a state border police force to supplement federal efforts to enforce immigration laws, including the ban on hiring illegal immigrants. Republican lawmakers said illegal immigration costs California \$9 billion to \$10 billion a year in areas such as education, health care, and incarceration and say the federal government isn't controlling the borders. Opponents said both measures raised constitutional questions, that they could actually increase state costs and that the two lawmakers should be complaining to President Bush about inadequate immigration enforcement.

B. Assembly panel rejects crackdown measures on illegal immigration

Press Enterprise, July 6, 2005

An Assembly committee on Tuesday rejected proposed constitutional amendments seeking to deny a series of benefits to illegal immigrants and create a state border police force, but both could resurface next year as ballot initiatives. The Judiciary Committee voted 4-2 to turn down an amendment that would prevent illegal immigrants from receiving any health care or social services not required by federal law. The committee also voted 5-2 to reject an amendment that would create a state border police force to supplement federal efforts to enforce immigration laws, including the ban on hiring illegal immigrants.

C. Give 'em their papers, a federal judge orders

Press Enterprise, August 27, 2005

A federal judge is ordering the government to expedite delivery of green cards or other documents to thousands of immigrants who have been granted legal residency in the United States. The suit represents at least 12,500 immigrants nationwide who have been waiting, sometimes years, for their legal documents that prove they are in the country legally.

D. Towns Lose Tool Against Illegal Immigrants

The New York Times, August 13, 2005

A New Hampshire judge on Friday threw out a novel strategy that two police departments had tried to use to combat illegal immigration. The strategy involved charging illegal immigrants with criminal trespassing, and in the last few months such citations were filed against at least nine people, most of them Mexicans, in the towns of New Ispawich and Hudson. The police chiefs of those towns had said they decided to take immigration matters into their own hands because overburdened federal immigration authorities were unable or unwilling to take action against immigrants who were not considered dangerous or otherwise a high law enforcement priority.

E. Illegal Immigrant License Bill Advances

Los Angeles Times, September 8, 2005

The California Assembly passed a bill to extend driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. The measure would clear the way for California to create a distinct driver's license, with a unique

design and color, for people who cannot prove legal citizenship in the United State. The license could be used only for driving and would not be valid identification for other purposes such as opening a bank account or boarding an airplane. The bill, SB 60, would also allow roughly 800,000 people in California who have applied to federal immigration officials for legal residency to get a California driver's license starting as soon as March 2006.

F. Admission Policy Changed at Hawaii Schools

The Boston Globe, August 3, 2005

A 117-year-old policy of admitting only Native Hawaiians to the exclusive Kamehameha Schools amounts to unlawful racial discrimination, a federal appeals court has ruled. Overturning a lower court, a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 that the practice at the private school violates federal civil rights law even though the institution receives no federal funding.

G. Hispanic reparations bill passes Assembly

Press Enterprise, September 7, 2005

Responding to a dark chapter in American history, the Assembly voted to establish a state fund that could be used to pay reparations to survivors of a massive deportation of Hispanics in the 1930s. By a 41-23 vote, lawmakers approved a bill that also would create a 16-member commission to make recommendations to the governor and Legislature on how to redress the deportations. The bill is a response to a policy that was started by the Hoover administration to remove illegal immigrants and to open up jobs during the Depression. Most of the 2 million Latinos who were deported to Mexico were American citizens or legal immigrants. They included 400,000 Californians.

H. Domestic partners law gets court OK

Press Enterprise, June 30, 2005

The state Supreme Court let stand a new law granting registered domestic partners many of the same rights and protections of heterosexual marriage. Without comment, the unanimous justices upheld appellate and trial-court rulings that the sweeping measure does not conflict with a voter-approved initiatives defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The domestic partner law, signed in 2003 represents the nation's most comprehensive recognition of gay domestic rights, short of the legalization of gay marriage. The law grants registered couples almost every spousal right available under state law except the ability to file joint income taxes.

I. New Jersey court says no to gay marriage

Press Enterprise, June 15, 2005

A state appeals court ruled Tuesday that New Jersey's Constitution does not require the recognition of gay marriage, rejecting the efforts of seven same-sex couples who sued the state to allow them to marry. The panel, in a 2-1 decision, affirmed a lower-court ruling that said legislators must change marriage laws before same-sex couples can wed.

J. Spain Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

The New York Times, June 30, 2005

The Spanish Parliament gave final approval today to a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, making Spain only the second nation to eliminate all legal distinctions between same-sex and heterosexual unions. The measure, passed by a vote of 187 to 147, establishes that couples will have the same rights, including the freedom to marry and to adopt children, regardless of gender. Spain is the fourth country to legalize gay marriage, after Canada, Holland, and Belgium.

K. Vote seals gays' right to marry

Press Enterprise, June 29, 2005

The House of Commons voted to extend marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples throughout Canada despite strong opposition from the Conservatives and a splintering of the governing Liberal Party caucus. The vote sealed two years of provincial court decisions that gave same-sex couples the right to marry in eight of 10 provinces and one of the three northern territories. Though the vote was largely symbolic, gay-rights leaders hailed it as a milestone because it was the first time a Canadian legislative body had voted to change the traditional definition of marriage beyond a union of a man and a woman.

L. Gay man wins ruling

Press Enterprise, August 14, 2005

A federal appeals court ruled that an AIDS-afflicted gay man who fled Mexico because he feared persecution is eligible for political asylum in the United States. The decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed rulings by immigration courts that had ordered the deportation of Jose Boer-Sedano, a Mexican national. Boer-Sedano argued for asylum, claiming he would face persecution in Mexico. He said a police officer there had forced him to perform sex acts under threat of being outed or killed and he feared returning.

M. Country Club Must Make Gays Even Offer

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 2, 2005

California's highest court ruled Monday that country clubs must offer gay members who register as domestic partners the same discounts given to married ones—a decision that could apply to other businesses such as insurance companies and mortgage lenders. The decision by the California Supreme Court dealt with a policy at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego that allowed only the children, grandchildren, and spouses of married members to golf for free.

N. Gay-marriage bill vetoed by governor

Press Enterprise, September 30, 2005

Gov. Schwarzenegger followed through on his promise to veto a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, leaving the issue up to voters or judges, who will likely face the volatile issue in the next year. The governor said the bill by Assemblyman Mark Leno, contradicted Prop. 22, which defines a marriage as only between a man and a woman. Voters approved the ballot measure in 2000. A state appeals court is considering whether the state's ban on gay marriage is constitutional.

I. Immigration Issues

A. Bill seeks teeth for deportation

Press Enterprise, July 2, 2005

Illegal immigrants who violate deportation orders and smugglers who take them across the U.S. border would face mandatory sentences of up to a decade in prison under new legislation introduced by Inland Rep. Darrell Issa. The legislation would mandate that illegal immigrants who violate deportation orders serve at least a one-year minimum sentence before they are again deported. Those who have been previously convicted of three or more misdemeanors or a felony and deported would face a five-year minimum sentence. Those convicted of an aggravated felony would face a 10-year minimum sentence. The bill is called the Criminal Alien Accountability Act.

B. Border watchers coming to city

The Houston Chronicle, July 8, 2005

Leaders of the controversial group dedicated to stopping the flow of illegal immigration said they will patrol the streets of the Bayou City beginning in October, as part of a campaign that will extend north from the Mexican border. Houston volunteers will father near day labor centers and corners where immigrant workers solicit work, in an effort to draw critical attention to the city's hands-off policy toward illegal immigrants. "We will be videotaping the (day laborers) and we will be videotaping the contractors who pick them up," said Bill Parmley, a Goliad County landowner.

C. Assembly panel rejects illegal immigration measures

San Francisco Chronicle, July 5, 2005

An Assembly committee rejected proposed constitutional amendments seeking to deny a series of benefits to illegal immigrants and create a state border police force, but both could resurface next year as ballot initiatives. The Judiciary Committee voted 4-2 Tuesday to turn down an amendment that would prevent illegal immigrants from receiving any health care or social services not required by federal law. The committee also voted 5-2 to reject an amendment that would create a state border police force to supplement federal efforts to enforce immigration laws, including the ban on hiring illegal immigrants. Republican lawmakers said illegal immigration costs California \$9 billion to \$10 billion a year in areas such as education, health care, and incarceration and say the federal government isn't controlling the borders. Opponents said both measures raised constitutional questions, that they could actually increase state costs and that the two lawmakers should be complaining to President Bush about inadequate immigration enforcement.

D. Herndon Day Labor Plan Opposed

Washington Post, July 12, 2005

Hundreds of emotional and angry residents flooded Herndon's municipal center last night over what is growing into a divisive and volatile issue for the region: using tax dollars to establish official day laborer sites. Dubbed Project Hope and Harmony, the proposal was brought forth by a broad coalition of faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations, and social workers. It calls for creating a site in a residential area. Three social workers would manage the day laborers and offer such services as English classes. Fairfax County has offered to use public money to pay the costs of running the site.

E. Town Uses Trespass Law to Fight Illegal Immigrants

The New York Times, July 13, 2005

Jorge Mora Ramirez was charged with criminal trespassing by a local police officer in New Ipswich, New Hampshire. The officer, "wanted the federal government to understand that I was going to take some type of action." Other police departments in states that include California, Florida, and Georgia, have expressed interest in the validity of the charges because some local law enforcement officials around the country would most likely copy the approach. Civil liberties advocates and the Mexican government, which is paying for his lawyers, are also watching the case against Mr. Ramirez.

F. Births to foreign-born mothers soar

Press Enterprise, July 8, 2005

Foreign-born mothers are delivering a record number of children in the United States, with California families far ahead of the national average, a new report shows. The new analysis shows 46 percent of children born in California in 2002 had foreign-born mothers. This was twice the national average and considerably higher than it used to be. The Center for

Immigration Studies takes a generally hard line on immigration issues, and is injecting the new study into the debate when congressional action is undecided.

G. Assembly panel rejects crackdown measures on illegal immigration

Press Enterprise, July 6, 2005

An Assembly committee on Tuesday rejected proposed constitutional amendments seeking to deny a series of benefits to illegal immigrants and create a state border police force, but both could resurface next year as ballot initiatives. The Judiciary Committee voted 4-2 to turn down an amendment that would prevent illegal immigrants from receiving any health care or social services not required by federal law. The committee also voted 5-2 to reject an amendment that would create a state border police force to supplement federal efforts to enforce immigration laws, including the ban on hiring illegal immigrants.

H. L.A. Fights to Cure TB One Case at a Time

Los Angeles Times, July 11, 2005

In the United States, and especially in California, tuberculosis is largely an immigrants' affliction. According to a recent report by the state's Department of Health Services, California led the nation in the number of new TB cases reported last year, with 2,989. Three-quarters of those were among people born outside the United States and nearly a fifth were younger than 16. Although TB has been declining for more than a decade in the United States, experts worry about how entrenched it remains in some immigrant enclaves. They worry, especially, about a small but stubborn share of cases—1% to 2% in this state—that are resistant to standard antibiotics.

I. Civilian Militia Proposed Along Border

Dallas Morning News, August 10, 2005

There's been no shortage of ideas to stem the flow of illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexican border: Build a long wall. Send the Marines. Double the number of federal agents. A Texas congressman has added another: Deputize armed civilians and deploy them as militia to serve along side the Border Patrol. Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston, plans to create a Border Protection Corps has drawn support from four dozen House colleagues—and warnings from immigrants' advocates. While Mr. Culberson said that Gov. Rick Perry is looking closely at his proposal, the governor's aids say he's more interested in a "neighborhood watch" approach. In that model, civilians would serve as eyes and ears for law enforcement rather than actively guarding rivers and checkpoints.

J. Despite Illegal Status, Buyers Get Home Loans

Los Angeles Times, August 9, 2005

Across the country, particularly in Texas and parts of the Midwest, hundreds of illegal immigrants have bought homes using special lending programs that bypass the need for a Social Security number. Now, with backing from some of the country's largest financial institutions, this newest effort to tap customers for the real estate market is moving to the nation's largest concentrations of illegal immigrants—California. For years, because qualifying for a mortgage required a Social Security number, the only way for an illegal immigrant to do so was by using a false number. In addition, such immigrants often were rejected or overlooked by legitimate lenders, leaving them vulnerable to fraud. Lenders have a powerful incentive to find ways to get around those barriers: then of thousands of potential customers. The National Assn. Of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals estimates that more than 216,000 undocumented immigrants, including many who have been in the country for decades, could buy homes if they had better access to the market.

K. Colleges Try to Help Newcomers with Tuition

The Boston Globe, July 26, 2005

A group of Boston colleges is seeking to establish scholarship funds for undocumented immigrants now in the city's public schools. The scholarships would make up the difference between out-of-state and in-state college tuition, which the students are not eligible to receive under state law. The colleges plan to tap private donors to fund the scholarships, estimated to be about \$5,000 annually per student. The schools say they are left with no choice because a bill before the Legislature that would provide in-state tuition for qualifying undocumented immigrants is not assured of passage.

L. Illegal entry by non-Mexicans rises

The Christian Science Monitor, July 26, 2005

After decades of attempting to dam the flow of Mexican immigrants crossing into the United States illegally, federal agents say a new crisis is emerging along the southern border and they are helpless to stop it. Non-Mexicans are spilling over the border in record numbers-some from countries with terrorist ties-and most are set free soon after being captured. Because OTMs, or "Other Than Mexicans" as the Border Patrol classifies them, must be returned to their country of origin, they cannot be simply sent back across the southern border, as most Mexicans are. Under US law, they must be detained 90 days in the US pending a deportation hearing. The problem is, immigration detention centers are packed, so most OTMs are given a court summons and told to return in three months. About 80 percent don't.

M. Federal report: Border Patrol needs better data

North Country Times, July 25, 2005

A recently completed Government Accountability Office review of U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints across the Southwest concludes Border Patrol officials need to find better ways of measuring the effectiveness of those checkpoints. "As many illegal aliens and contraband smugglers continue to evade the border defenses, the need to measure effectiveness and allocate scarce human resources grows in significance," the report states. "The Border Patrol does not routinely evaluate the effectiveness of checkpoint operations or their costs."

N. Immigration Official Praises Citizen Patrols

Los Angeles Times, July 21, 2005

The nation's top immigration enforcement officials on Wednesday praised the work of citizen patrols along the U.S.-Mexican border and said this agency is looking at creating a volunteer reserve program to help beef up security. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert Bonner said his initial concerns about possible vigilantism by citizen patrol groups have been eased by the volunteers' conduct. Raquel Fonte, a staff attorney at the Immigrants Rights Project at Public Counsel, California's largest provider of pro bono legal services, said she was concerned that a top government official had endorsed "vigilante justice."

O. Group pushes plan for young immigrants who arrived illegally

Boston Globe, July 17, 2005

Supporters of a proposed law that would benefit people who arrived in the United States illegally as children said Sunday that it would help more immigrants go on to get college degrees and contribute more to society. During a rally held as part of the annual convention of a national Hispanic civil-rights group, people spoke out in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. The proposal, known as the DREAM Act, would give undocumented youth the chance to become legal U.S. residents and possibly help them get in-state college tuition. The proposal has failed in Congress in two previous sessions and has not been introduced in the current session. It would provide a conditional six-year legal status for immigrants who arrived before the age of 16 and have lived in the United States for at least five

years. Supporters say it is unfair to hold children responsible for their parents' decisions to immigrate illegally. Critics of the act say it would reward illegal behavior.

P. Illegal immigration protestors target arts festival in Laguna Beach

KESQ news Channel, Palm Springs, CA, July 25, 2005

About 100 opponents of illegal immigration staged a protest in Laguna Beach. They were criticizing the city's funding of a day laborer site with money partly generated by its annual Festival of the Arts. The Laguna Day Worker Center helps laborers, many of them immigrants, find jobs regardless of their status. Across the street from the protesters, half a dozen supporters of undocumented immigrants held signs with messages such as "Stop the Hate."

Q. Border Bill Allows Temporary Workers

Los Angeles Times, July 20, 2005

Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and Jon Kyl of Arizona introduced legislation that would funnel at least \$5 billion into border enforcement and create a temporary-worker visa requiring foreigners to return to their home countries when their jobs ended. The bill would toughen penalties for employers who hired undocumented workers, reimburse states for the costs of holding illegal immigrants who committed crimes, and required the machine-readable, tamper-proof Social Security cards be issued within a year. The Kyl-Cornyn bill is that latest entry in a crowded field that includes legislation introduced in May by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and John McCain and a bill introduced by Rep. Tom Tancredo.

The Kennedy-McCain bill would create a new visa category that would not tie temporary workers to a particular job and would allow them to apply for permanent residence. Tancredo's legislation would make it a felony to enter the United States illegally and would require the Department of Homeland Security to secure the border before a single worker could legally enter the country.

R. Tenacity Drives Immigrants' Dream

The Washington Post, August 7, 2005

Politicians tout the defense, biotech, and technology firms that set up shop in their districts. But in many pockets of the region, immigrants entrepreneurs are creating jobs and transforming the economy by moving into aging strip malls, abandoned shops and older offices and opening restaurants, grocery stores, barbershops, painting firms and landscape businesses. Many of these entrepreneurs struggle with English, have never owned a business, have only a few assets and are bewildered by the confusing tangle of regulations that face many small businesses. A recent study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found that the same tenacity immigrants draw upon to leave their home countries makes them a little more likely to take the entrepreneurial plunge. The rate of self-employment for immigrants is 9.3 percent, compared with 8.2 percent for others.

S. Protesters call border volunteer racist

Press Enterprise, July 24, 2005

Hundreds of demonstrators marched through the streets of Las Cruces on Saturday to protest a controversial civilian border patrol group, calling the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps racist and un-American. The League of United Latin American Citizens, one of the oldest Latino civil rights organizations in the country, organized the march and rally to show that Minuteman volunteers were not wanted in the area.

T. Invisible to Most, Immigrant Women Line Up for Day Labor

The New York Times, August 15, 2005

At a time when male day laborers have become the most public and contentious face of economic immigration to the United States, female day labor has doubled in size almost unobserved in recent years. Their growth reflects a larger overlooked reality: Women make up 44 percent of the nation's low-wage immigrant work force, and worldwide, studies show, more and more women are migrating for work. Often invisible and undercounted, experts say, female economic migrants are an increasing presence, especially in big cities like New York, where the demand is not for men to pick lettuce or process poultry, but for women to pick up the scraps of a collapsed manufacturing sector, or to serve in the vast underground economy of domestic service.

U. Civilian border-patrol idea ditched

Press Enterprise, July 22, 2005

There are no plans to enlist citizen volunteers to patrol U.S. borders, the Department of Homeland Security announced a day after its top border enforcement official said he was exploring ways to involve civilians in his agency's work.

V. Bill would expel illegal immigrants

Press Enterprise, July 20, 2005

Two border-state Republican senators proposed legislation Tuesday that would require every illegal immigrant-estimated at 10 million-to leave the United States and return to the nation they came from within five years. The bill, by Sens. John Cornyn, of Texas and Jon Kyl, of Arizona, would establish temporary work permits renewable for up to six years and would require employers to provide health insurance to workers. It also calls for tougher border security and law-enforcement measures. Undocumented immigrants would be required to depart the United States voluntarily and re-enter through legal channels, either by applying for permanent residency or a temporary work permit.

W. Congressional study urges checking on checkpoints

Press Enterprise, July 23, 2005

The General Accounting Office, an investigative branch of Congress, is requesting that Border Patrol officials develop better ways to determine and improve effectiveness at interior checkpoints. The 91-page report looked at 22 traffic checkpoints in the southwest region of the nation and one in northern New York state. The agency wanted to find out how the Border Patrol used permanent and moving checkpoints as part of its strategy and how effective it was in deterring or catching undocumented immigrants.

X. Immigration battle begins

Press Enterprise, July 27, 2005

The problem is clear: There are at least 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States-a figure that swells by about 450,000 a year. The Senate Judiciary Committee, which intends to tackle an immigration overhaul this year, convened to hear the merits of rival plans that propose a mix of increased border enforcement along with a guest-worker program. While both plans would allow illegal immigrants to come out of the shadows and work legally, they illustrate the debate's philosophical gulf. One plan would set illegal immigrants on a path to permanent residence and ultimately citizenship, if they so desire, at the end of their guest worker stint-sparking cries of amnesty by critics. The other would give employed illegal immigrants legal status for a period of years before requiring them to return permanently to their homeland-drawing complaints that the plan is unworkable and unpalatable to immigrants. Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, who said he intends to craft an immigration bill this year, suggested that the

administration was unprepared to weigh in on the merits of the competing bills-or offer its own blueprint.

Y. Immigrants driving need for translators

Press Enterprise, July 24, 2005

With nearly one in four American births now to a foreign-born mother, pressure is growing on health-care centers to not only deliver babies, but deliver in more languages than one. A report issued by the Center for Immigration Studies said that in 2002, 23 percent of all births in the U.S. were to immigrant mothers. Births to Hispanic mother accounted for 59 percent of those. Though studies are under way, there are no national numbers for access to, or use of, interpreter services in health care. The alternatives to a trained translator can be, and have been, a Spanish-speaking janitor pulled into the delivery room, said Dr. Portia Jones of Albany Medical Center in New York. When all else fails, children themselves have stepped in. One interpreter group does a presentation titled, "Can my 7-year-old interpret for me in the delivery room?"

Z. U.S. Hispanics Divided on Immigrant Issues

Los Angeles Times, August 16, 2005

A majority of Hispanics born in the United States don't think illegal Hispanic immigrants should be given drivers' licenses, according to a new poll. Most foreign-born Hispanics disagree, according to the polling for the Pew Hispanic Center. The difference between foreign-born Hispanics and native-born Hispanics on the driver's license issue highlights the disparity between the two groups on several issues.

AA. Immigrants, locals clash on Long Island

Press Enterprise, August 5, 2005

For more than a decade, immigrants from Mexico or Central America have been drawn to Long Island by the prospect of jobs. The immigrants, many of whom are believed to have entered the country illegally, have been a source of tension among longtime residents since at least the last 1990s, but things have gotten worse this summer-so bad that the head of the Mexican Consulate in New York City said the Farmingville was "clearly a red zone after the Arizona border" in the abuse of immigrants. In late June, two men were charged with a hate crime for allegedly berating a Mexican woman and her husband as the couple backed their van out of a parking lot. Within weeks, two more suspects were arrested and accused of yelling racial epithets and throwing a beer bottle at a Hispanic day laborer. So far, at least six overcrowded one-family homes have been shut by authorities leaving more than 100 men homeless, advocates said. Advocates claimed the immigrants have been thrown into the streets without warning. One advocate called it "ethnic cleansing."

BB. Mexicans make mark in Northeast

Press Enterprise, August 1, 2005

In Newburgh, New York new residents from Mexico have, in the last four years, opened dozens of businesses that have begun to reinvigorate the ailing downtown district; they are the region's fastest growing community. It's the same story elsewhere in the Northeast. Like the other parts of the country before it, the region is finally starting to see the impact of Mexican migration. New communities of Mexicans have arrived to fill farm, construction, and domestic jobs, government data show. Population growth in states such as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut would be considerably slower if not for the newcomers, who are steadily brining about the region's biggest demographic shift in generations. And while the change has brought new vitality to some places, it's also created tensions.

CC. Give 'em their papers, a federal judge orders

Press Enterprise, August 27, 2005

A federal judge is ordering the government to expedite delivery of green cards or other documents to thousands of immigrants who have been granted legal residency in the United States. The suit represents at least 12,500 immigrants nationwide who have been waiting, sometimes years, for their legal documents that prove they are in the country legally.

DD. Minuteman founder hopes to ride fame to House seat

The Washington Times, August 26, 2005

James Gilchrist has never held political office, but the founder of the Minuteman Project expects his notoriety as border enforcer to help him win California's special election to replace former Rep. Christopher Cox. Mr. Gilchrist, whose organization received nationwide attention by protesting illegal immigration during an April border vigil in Arizona, said campaign contributions are flowing in from across the country and that his work on the immigration issue has broadened his knowledge on several others.

EE. Homeland Security Chief Tells of Plan to Stabilize Border

The New York Times, August 24, 2005

Acknowledging public frustration over illegal immigrants, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Tuesday that the federal government's border control efforts must be significantly strengthened. The unusually blunt assessment by the nation's top immigration official follows border-related emergency declarations by the governors of New Mexico and Arizona, who cited a surge in smuggling and violence associated with a steady flow of illegal immigrants. The strategy that Mr. Chertoff said his department was preparing goes far beyond hiring more Border Patrol agents and installing more surveillance cameras, infrared and motion detectors, and fences, initiatives that are already planned or underway. In addition to those apprehension efforts, the secretary intends to bolster the deportation process so that an overwhelmed detention system does not cause illegal immigrants to be set free instead of being sent home. He plans to add beds for detainees, expedite deportations by making more judges and lawyers available, and try to track down more illegal immigrants who do not appear for deportation hearings.

FF. Illegals dying at record rate in Arizona desert

USA Today, August 22, 2005

With about six weeks remaining in the Border Patrol's fiscal year-and more Border Patrol agents patrolling than ever-201 men, women, and children have succumbed to the elements in Arizona. In the end, about 30% of the victims are never identified.

GG. Schwarzenegger Urged to Declare Emergency

The Washington Post, August 19, 2005

The state Assembly leader called on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to make California the third state to declare an emergency along its border with Mexico. New Mexico drew national attention last week when its governor declared a state of emergency, citing lawlessness, drug smuggling, and human trafficking along the border. The governor of Arizona did the same this week. Schwarzenegger has said that he supports the actions of his fellow governors but does not think there is a crisis along California's border.

HH. Towns Lose Tool Against Illegal Immigrants

The New York Times, August 13, 2005

A New Hampshire judge on Friday threw out a novel strategy that two police departments had tried to use to combat illegal immigration. The strategy involved charging illegal immigrants with criminal trespassing, and in the last few months such citations were filed against at least nine

people, most of them Mexicans, in the towns of New Ispawich and Hudson. The police chiefs of those towns had said they decided to take immigration matters into their own hands because overburdened federal immigration authorities were unable or unwilling to take action against immigrants who were not considered dangerous or otherwise a high law enforcement priority.

II. Free portable showers let laborers clean off

Press Enterprise, July 28, 2005

Mecca Comfort Station off Avenue 66 has become popular among migrant farmworkers who need a place to clean off after work hours. The portable bathroom and shower facilities operate from 2pm to 7pm weekdays and 12pm to 5pm Saturdays. Within a month, a new and permanent Comfort Station will be up and running. Last year was the Comfort Station's first year of operation. During the 15 weeks it opened, 4,077 men and women used the facilities.

JJ. Slim Pickings in Farm Labor Pool

Los Angeles Times, August 17, 2005

California's farm labor contractors and growers said they struggle to find enough workers for the summer harvest because tougher border enforcement and competition from the booming construction industry and other sectors are shrinking agriculture's primary workforce: undocumented Mexican immigrants. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 52% of the nation's agricultural workforce is unsanctioned foreign laborers. California growers say that the number could be as high as 90% in the Central Valley and that they cannot survive without a steady supply. Farm labor activist who oppose the hiring of illegal workers say farmers' dependence on foreign labor stems from their refusal to pay workers higher wages and benefits. They cite unemployment rates exceeding 20% in rural towns such as Huron and Mendota, suggesting that the problem isn't so much the supply of workers but their willingness to work under the current wages and conditions.

KK. Border-crossing deaths hit record

Press Enterprise, September 5, 2005

A record number of people have died crossing the U.S. border illegally this year, marking a tragic milestone in the Southwest's blistering deserts and mountains. According to the Border Patrol, 415 people are known to have died since October 1, 2004, the beginning of the 2005 Federal fiscal year. More than half of the border crossers were found dead in the scorching deserts of southern Arizona.

LL. Asylum-seekers fight for refuge

The Sun Herald, September 22, 2005

Each year, tens of thousands of people, many fearing torture or death in their homelands, turn to a little-known federal agency as their last hope to win permission to remain in the United States. But since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, this agency, the Board of Immigration Appeals, has been dispensing rapid-fire immigration justice, rejecting the pleas of refugees and other immigrants more than ever. The fallout has hit hardest in California and the West. Immigration appeals in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers California and eight other states, jumped from 900 [cases] five years ago to more than 5,000 last year. Under the innocuous title of "Procedural Reforms to Improve Case Management," the Justice Department in February 2002 unveiled its plan to reduce a staggering 55,000-case backlog at the appeals board. Pushed by [Attorney General] Ashcroft, who said he wanted swift justice to make sure terrorists and others wouldn't slip through the system's cracks, the plan for the most part did away with the board's custom of assigning three-member panels to decide many of its cases, and including explanations with most of the decisions. Instead, single board members would be deciding the vast majority of cases, many through brief orders without explanations. At the same time, Ashcroft reduced the board's

size from 23 members to 11, sweeping away appeals board judges with a track record of overturning the work of immigration judges. The board, set up as a watchdog in the 1940s, was now deciding more cases than ever with fewer members.

MM. Detainees at Lancaster Jail Protest Slow Immigration Hearings

Los Angeles Times, September 21, 2005

Hundreds of detainees ignored orders to disperse and gathered in an open-air courtyard of a jail in Lancaster, protesting slow immigration procedures. At the height of the event, dozens of orange-suited men sat in the jail yard. Several had used sheets to form letters in the grass spelling the message, "Help us." An immigration spokesperson said a backlog of cases has caused delays of two to four weeks in holding hearings.

NN. Some evacuees face deportation

Press Enterprise, September 21, 2005

After heeding the Bush administration's call to seek help regardless of status, a handful of illegal immigrants who fled Hurricane Katrina have been ordered to appear for deportation hearings. In the days after the hurricane, Mexican President Vicente Fox and President Bush made appeals in English and Spanish with the promise that, "those who were not documented at the time will not be subject to any pressure or persecution whatsoever."

OO. Citizenship process grows tougher

Press Enterprise, September 20, 2005

Tighter immigration restrictions are making the citizenship process tougher for some elderly and disabled people, according to several local agencies that aid immigrations. The agencies say immigration officials have cut some outreach programs, increased background checks, and reduced the number of medical waivers for applicants seeking to skip interviews in English and the citizenship exam. The delays are especially hard on disabled and elderly refugee applicants who could lose government benefits if they fail to meet application deadlines for citizenship.

PP. U.S. to strengthen border zone

Press Enterprise, September 15, 2005

The Bush administration said it will fortify the westernmost stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border over the objections of environmentalists and California regulators, who feared the project would harm a refuge for endangered birds. Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff signed an environmental waiver that expedites the Border Patrol's long-standing plans to fill in canyons and erect additional fencing along the final 3.5 miles of the border before it meets the Pacific Ocean. Mexico has objected to the fencing. A spokesperson for Mexican President Vicente Foz said in May that the president lamented the project and said constructing walls was not the best way to solve the challenges on the common border.

QQ. Farm labor shortage approaches critical level

California Farm Bureau Federation, September 14, 2005

With thousands of acres ready for harvest, California farmers say they're facing the tightest labor market in recent memory. In some growing regions they say labor shortages are reaching crisis levels-crops must come off right now and there aren't enough workers to do the job. Farmers through the state that the lack of workers could lead to further planting curtailment for next year's food production if something isn't done to address the situation. California Farm Bureau Federation leaders are concerned that stricter border enforcement and a crackdown on falsely documented workers-without also taking steps to ensure that farmers have adequate and orderly access to a legal, temporary workforce-could be disastrous for the state's \$31 billion a year

agricultural production. Experts say a serious vulnerability for agriculture is that an estimated 70 percent of the state's seasonal farmworkers are falsely documented.

RR. Surge of immigrants picks up after decline

Press Enterprise, September 28, 2005

The flow of legal and illegal immigrants to the United States is rebounding after a post-2001 decline, a new study shows. About 1.2 million migrants entered the country last year. While the number is 24 percent less than the all time high reached in 2000, the tide is surging back to what it was in the mid-1990s. Illegal immigration, in particular, is on the rise. California still attracts many of the new migrants, with an estimated 239,000 settling in annually, but an increasing number are heading for state like Georgia, North Carolina, and Iowa.

SS. Greyhound ticket policy under fire

Press Enterprise, September 23, 2005

Greyhound Lines Inc., the nation's largest intercity bus company, has threatened to fire employees who sell bus tickets to illegal immigrants under an internal policy that some Hispanic advocacy groups are calling an invitation to racial profiling. The "Transportation of Illegal Aliens" policy warns Greyhound's customer service employees to beware of people in large groups, moving in single file, and traveling with little or no luggage. It says other tell-tale signs including people "trying to hide or stay out of plain view" or large groups led by a "guide" who holds everyone's tickets.

TT. Joint effort in border-crime fight praised

Press Enterprise, September 9, 2005

A program that lets American law-enforcement officials hand over immigrants smuggling suspects to Mexican authorities for prosecution will be expanded throughout Arizona. The operation already is up and running as a pilot project in California and the Yuma area. Mexican authorities will be able to prosecute the so-called "coyotes" because their legal system doesn't require victims to be present at trial. A deposition or sworn complaint is all that is needed.

UU. Immigrants feared wary of aid offers

Press Enterprise, September 8, 2005

Foreign governments and Hispanic advocacy groups scrambled to help an especially vulnerable group of hurricane survivors; immigrants who often don't speak English or possess legal immigration status. Many victims compounded the challenge by heading underground, but officials from Mexico and Central American urged their countrymen to seek disaster relief, even if they are afraid because they are illegal immigrants. Leaders also urged U.S. authorities not to deport hurricane victims and officials with the Department of Homeland Security said immigration enforcement would take a back seat to saving lives.

VV. Protest leads group to delay border watch

Press Enterprise, September 20, 2005

Friends of the Border Patrol has postponed plans to monitor California's border with Mexico after protesters outnumbered group members in San Diego. Roughly 40 protesters verbally and physically clashed with about 10 members of the border watch group.

WW. Funds OK'd to identify immigrants

Press Enterprise, September 21, 2005

San Bernardino County Supervisors approved about a half-million dollars to hire nine employees at the county jail for a program to identify and deport inmates who are in the country illegally.

The sheriff's custody specialists will be trained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the federal Department of Homeland Security in identifying undocumented immigrants. The inmates would be turned over to federal officials for immigration violations. A Government Accountability Office report released in May reported that it cost California \$635 million in 2004 to jail undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes. The federal government reimbursed the state for \$77 million.

XX. Illegal Immigrant License Bill Advances

Los Angeles Times, September 8, 2005

The California Assembly passed a bill to extend driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. The measure would clear the way for California to create a distinct driver's license, with a unique design and color, for people who cannot prove legal citizenship in the United State. The license could be used only for driving and would not be valid identification for other purposes such as opening a bank account or boarding an airplane. The bill, SB 60, would also allow roughly 800,000 people in California who have applied to federal immigration officials for legal residency to get a California driver's license starting as soon as March 2006.

II. Race

A. State on hunt for racial profiling

The Boston Globe, July 5, 2005

After a statewide review showed racial disparities in traffic citations issued by police in nearly 250 communities, the state has launched an initiative to determine whether racial bias is to blame for the disproportionate number of minority drivers stopped on the state's roadways. While police were previously required only to record the race and gender of drivers, now officers are being asked to note the duration and reason for the stop, what type of road it happened on, whether the car was searched, and what was found. In addition, instead of recording the data only when they issue warnings or tickets, police are now being asked to provide the information every time they stop a car. The state says the move will shed light on whether stops of minority drivers are warranted or the result of racial profiling.

B. Minorities found to favor their own media

Press Enterprise, June 27, 2005

Nearly half of the country's Hispanics, Asian-Americans and other minorities prefer ethnic newspapers, television, and radio to mainstream media, according to a poll released Tuesday. Overall, ethnic media reaches approximately 80 percent of the groups studied-about 51 million people. Many turn to foreign-language newspapers and broadcasts because English isn't their native tongue.

C. NCAA takes a stand on Indian nicknames

Press Enterprise, August 6, 2005

Fed up with what it considers "hostile" and "abusive" American Indian nicknames, the NCAA announced Friday it would shut those words and images out of postseason tournaments. Starting in February, any school with a nickname or logo considered racially or ethnically hostile or abusive by the NCAA would be prohibited from using them in postseason events. Mascots will not be allowed to perform at tournament games, and band members and cheerleaders will also be barred from using American Indians on their uniforms beginning 2008.

D. Black History Becoming a Star Tourist Attraction

The Washington Post, August 15, 2005

On a recent afternoon, a young man fainted at one of the galleries at a Baltimore museum of African American history upon hearing the story of a black couple who were hanged and mutilated by an angry mob, the woman's fetus torn from her and crushed. Yet despite the horrors they face at the National Great Blacks in Max Museum, visitors keep steaming in. Attendance has grown from 100,000 visitors in 1995 to more than 200,000 currently, and its owner plans to expand it from one building to an entire city block in 2008.

E. Census Tracks 'Major Waves'

USA Today, August 11, 2005

That nation's two largest minority groups are following strikingly different paths: Hispanics are moving to areas with few from their ethnic group; African-Americans are moving to suburbs in the South that have large black populations, Census estimates released Thursday show. "These are two major waves in American," says William Frey, demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "One is the black return to the South. The other is Hispanics going to places where everybody else is moving, following the jobs."

F. Victims describe profiling by police

Chicago Tribune, August 3, 2005

About three dozen black men and women gathered Tuesday at a meeting of the City Council Police and Fire Committee in City Hall, many of them to tell aldermen their experiences with racial profiling by Chicago police. These comments came after aldermen heard from Chicago Police Supt. Philip Cline, who stressed his department does much to battle actual and perceived profiling. After the meeting, Cline said he would be working with local and state officials to place video cameras in the city's 1,700 squad cars. Recording traffic stops with cameras and microphones would leave little doubt about what occurred when allegations of misconduct arise, he said, but the effort hinges on funding.

G. Admission Policy Changed at Hawaii Schools

The Boston Globe, August 3, 2005

A 117-year-old policy of admitting only Native Hawaiians to the exclusive Kamehameha Schools amounts to unlawful racial discrimination, a federal appeals court has ruled. Overturning a lower court, a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 that the practice at the private school violates federal civil rights law even though the institution receives no federal funding.

H. Minority-Owned Businesses Are on the Rise

The New York Times, July 29, 2005

The number of businesses owned by minorities and women grew in recent years at rates that were two or more times the national average, according to the United States Census Bureau. From 1997-2002, the number of businesses in the United States grew about 10 percent, to 23 million from just under 21 million. The Census Bureau defined a business as an entity with revenue of \$1,000 or more a year and that files the proper tax forms. In 2002, African-Americans owned 1.2 million businesses, an increase of 45 percent, or more than four times the national growth rate. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew 31 percent, or about three times the overall growth rate at 1.6 million businesses. The number of Asian-owned businesses grew 24 percent over the period.

I. Whites, Blacks bury past

The State, July 13, 2005

In a rare, emotional and historic church service that left many weeping and others transported with joy, South Carolina whites openly confessed the sins of lynching and slavery. And blacks forgave. The congregation-300 blacks and whites-clapped and swayed and hugged as they recalled a lynching 89 years ago of Anthony Crawford, a prosperous black farmer who dared sass a white man. "I was to personally express regret for what happened 89 years ago to Mr. Anthony Crawford," Abbeville Mayor Harold McNeil told the congregation. It was apparently the first statement of apology ever made to blacks by any mayor of the towns where blacks were lynched during the 19th and 20th century.

J. Democratic, GOP chiefs make pitch to Latinos

Press Enterprise, July 20, 2005

Democratic and Republican leaders touted their parties' records on inclusion, courting voters at the annual convention of a Hispanic civil-rights group. In a sign of the growing political clout of Hispanics, the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee chairmen both appeared at the event for the first time.

K. Coalition seeks Hispanic-black harmony

Press Enterprise, August 2, 2005

The Rev. Al Sharpton announced he was forming a coalition to promote racial unity between blacks and Hispanics in Los Angeles, hoping to ease a long-running rivalry over jobs, housing and schools. Sharpton called for a range of public activities aimed at brining attention to the shared interests of blacks and Hispanics, from community forums to church visits to radio appearances.

L. Years Have Done Little to Help Local Blacks

Los Angeles Times, July 14, 2005

Forty years after the Watts riots exposed the dismal social conditions afflicting many African American communities, blacks continue to trail other ethnic groups in housing, health care, and criminal justice, a report by the Los Angeles Urban League concludes. Blacks in Los Angeles County are twice as likely as other groups to be victims of violent crimes, their death rates from homicide and HIV/AIDS are more than three times higher than for other racial groups, more blacks receive public assistance and more black children live in poverty. Particularly disturbing are crime data showing that blacks-adults and juveniles- have arrest rates far higher than other groups. In addition, black and Latino drivers are searched by the LAPD four times more often than whites or Asians, yet only 38% of blacks are found to be carrying illegal items compared with 55% of whites, 65% of Latinos, and 54% of Asians.

M. Hispanics lead way in mass-transit use

Press Enterprise, July 20, 2005

A study by the University of California, Los Angeles found that Hispanics are far more likely than whites to carpool or use public transportation. Recent Hispanic immigrants were seven times more likely than non-Hispanic whites to use public transportation and vie times more likely to carpool. The findings contradict expectations that the increase in the size of the state's Hispanic population would lead to a corresponding increase in traffic congestion.

N. Ordinance: Firms must admit slave-trade ties

Press Enterprise, July 23, 2005

Contractors doing business with Oakland have until Oct. 1 to disclose whether they participated in the slave trade, under an ordinance adopted by the City Council. Companies who provide

insurance, financial and other services must reveal whether they or their parent companies bought or sold slaves, or had other ties such as lending money used to buy slaves.

O. Ex-secretary asked to apologize for linking crime, blacks

USA Today, September 30, 2005

Senate minority Leader Harry Reid and other Democrats demanded that former Education Secretary William Bennett apologize for remarks on his radio program linking the crime rate and the abortion of black babies. Bennett was answering a caller's question, took issue with the hypothesis put forth in a recent book that one reason crime is down is that abortion is up. "But I do know that it's true that if you wanted to reduce crime, you could, if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down," Bennett said.

P. From Margins of Society to Center of the Tragedy

The New York Times, September 2, 2005

The scenes of floating corpses, scavengers fighting for food and desperate throngs seeking any way out of new Orleans have been tragic enough. But for many African-American leaders, there is a growing outrage that many of those still stuck at the center of this tragedy were people who for generations had been pushed to the margins of society.

The victims, they note, were largely black and poor, those who toiled in the background of the tourist havens, living in tumbledown neighborhoods that were long known to be vulnerable to disaster if the levees failed. Without so much as a car or bus fare to escape ahead of time, they found themselves left behind by a failure to plan for their rescue should the dreaded day ever arrive.

In the days since neighborhoods and towns along the Gulf Coast were wiped out by the winds and water, there has been a growing sense that race and class are the unspoken markers of who got out and who got stuck. Just as in developing countries where the failures of rural development policies become glaringly clear at times of natural disasters like floods or drought, many national leaders said, some of the United States' poorest cities have been left vulnerable by federal policies.

Q. Asian American Group Alleges Poll Problems

The Boston Globe, August 18, 2005

Asian-American voters faced significant barriers at the ballot box during the November 2004 election in Boston, according to a survey by a national advocacy group that found complaints by minority voters were far more widespread than those outlined in a recent federal lawsuit against the City of Boston. The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund documented numerous examples of voters who were turned away from the polls, denied access to translated materials, and insufficiently notified of their polling sites.

R. The Newest Indians

The New York Times, August 28, 2005

A century ago, Native Americans were down to a few hundred thousand people, and the prevailing concern was not about overpopulation but about extinction. In four consecutive censuses, which showed other groups growing by 7 to 10 percent, Native American populations soared, growing by more than 50 percent in 1970, by more than 70 percent in 1980 and another third in 1990. The 2000 census reveals an overall doubling, to more than four million. Jack Dr. Forbes, an emeritus professor of native American studies at the University of California at Davis, argues that undercounts and other census quirks may mean that the total number of Indians in the United States today is in fact closer to 15 or even 30 million. Using the 2000 census data, Indians can be called America's fastest-growing minority.

S. Fewer black enrollees put heat on Gov. Bush

Press Enterprise, September 11, 2005

New figures show fewer black students are attending Florida Universities, providing ammunition for critics of Gov. Jeb Bush's 5-year-old policy that excludes race in admission decisions. Sex of the 11 public universities reported a drop, and the percentage of blacks in this year's freshman class is at the lowest since Bush became governor in 1999. The decline comes despite continued growth in the overall student population at the state's public universities.

Y. Congressional survey reviews Hispanic hiring

Press Enterprise, September 15, 2005

A Congressional Hispanic Caucus task force has launched a survey into the nation's largest companies to find out if they employ Hispanics from the boardroom to the mailroom. The survey, requested by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Corporate American task Force, was sent out last month. It seeks responses from the Fortune 100 U.S. companies, such as Wal-Mart Stores, Verizon, Exxon-Mobil, and General Motors Corp. The survey is expected to evaluate Hispanic representation on corporate boards and among management.

U. Hispanic reparations bill passes Assembly

Press Enterprise, September 7, 2005

Responding to a dark chapter in American history, the Assembly voted to establish a state fund that could be used to pay reparations to survivors of a massive deportation of Hispanics in the 1930s. By a 41-23 vote, lawmakers approved a bill that also would create a 16-member commission to make recommendations to the governor and Legislature on how to redress the deportations. The bill is a response to a policy that was started by the Hoover administration to remove illegal immigrants and to open up jobs during the Depression. Most of the 2 million Latinos who were deported to Mexico were American citizens or legal immigrants. They included 400,000 Californians.

V. Racial Gap in Loans is High in State

Los Angeles Times, September 29, 2005

A racial disparity in mortgage lending rates appears to be sharper in Los Angeles and other California metropolitan areas than the rest of the country, according to an analysis of federal data to be released today. The study by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), an advocacy group for the poor, looked at the percentage of higher-cost loans issued in minority communities compared with nonminority neighborhoods in the same metropolitan area. Residents of predominantly minority districts in the Los Angeles metro area were more than nine times more likely to get high-cost loans to refinance their homes than residents of predominantly white communities-the largest gap, proportionally, in all of the 125 metropolitan areas studied.

W. Nursing home sued for alleged discrimination

Press Enterprise, September 17, 2005

A nursing home in Los Angeles was sued for allegedly discriminating against its Hispanic workers by prohibiting them from speaking Spanish on the job. The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charged that a worker, who spoke only Spanish, was fired for speaking his native tongue on the job. The lawsuit seeks reinstatement and back pay for the worker.

III. Gender and Sexual Orientation

A. Bill pushes for equal rights for gay immigrant partners

Press Enterprise, June 23, 2005

California's liberal domestic partnership law is of no help when it comes to federal immigration law as it applies to domestic partners. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, introduced the latest version of a bill Tuesday to equalize immigration rights for gay and lesbian couples, the United American Families Act. The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act bars same-sex couples from all federal benefits conferred by marriage, including the right to sponsor an immigrant spouse for permanent residence. That includes gay and lesbian couples married in Massachusetts, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada.

B. Corporations eager to boost gay pride

Press Enterprise, June 25, 2005

Despite boycott threats from anti-gay groups and the perception of a gay marriage backlash from the American public, corporate sponsorship of gay pride festivities held around the country in June remains strong this year, according to event organizers and advertising agencies that specialize in reaching gay and lesbian consumers. From Anheuser-Busch to Bank of America and Avis Rent-a-Car to Aena Insurance, mainstream business that might have once thought twice about flying their logos alongside the rainbow flag are actively courting a market they consider beneficial, if not essential, to their bottom line.

C. Domestic partners law gets court OK

Press Enterprise, June 30, 2005

The state Supreme Court let stand a new law granting registered domestic partners many of the same rights and protections of heterosexual marriage. Without comment, the unanimous justices upheld appellate and trial-court rulings that the sweeping measure does not conflict with a voter-approved initiatives defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The domestic partner law, signed in 2003 represents the nation's most comprehensive recognition of gay domestic rights, short of the legalization of gay marriage. The law grants registered couples almost every spousal right available under state law except the ability to file joint income taxes.

D. Court asked to consider marriages

The Press Enterprise, July 2, 2005

Attorney General Bill Lockyer urged the California Supreme Court on Friday to decide whether gay marriage is permitted under the state constitution. Lockyer asked the justices to review a trial judge's decision in March that said state laws limiting marriage to heterosexual couples are unconstitutional. The attorney general's move is irregular because he wants California's top court to remove the case from a San Francisco appellate court. Cases usually move through the lower courts before being seen by the Supreme Court; however, Lockyer suggested that the issue warranted prompt attention.

E. Gay marriage bill gets another chance

Press Enterprise, July 11, 2005

After a bill legalizing same-sex marriages fell four votes short in the Assembly, supporters amended the defeated measure into a marriage-research bill that already had passed the Assembly and was awaiting a hearing in the state Senate. If the bill gets through the Senate, it will go back to the Assembly for a final vote, giving supporters another chance to send it to the governor's desk before lawmakers wrap up their 2005 session in September.

F. Growers settle with female farm workers

Press Enterprise, June 15, 2005

A group of female farm workers reached a \$1.05 million settlement with grape growers over allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation, both sides announced Tuesday. The agreement stems from a 2003 lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of Virginia Mejia, Rosario Taylor and several dozen other women against Rivera Vineyards in the Coachella Valley. The original complaint alleged that as far back as 1989, Rivera employees groped the women and requested sexual favors in exchange for better working conditions. The women, all of whom were Latina and spoke little English, also said they were excluded from certain positions and fired after they complained of harassment, according to the lawsuit.

G. TV network for gays, lesbians to debut

The Boston Globe, June 27, 2005

Long in the works, Logo, the new network for gays and lesbians, will initially be seen in about 10 million homes with digital cable. Unlike Here and Q, two pay-per-view, gay-oriented networks already operating. Logo will be available in homes that do not specifically order it. Films such as “Kissing Jessica Stein” and “Philadelphia” and documentaries will fill many of Logo’s first hours. The network also has a scripted series, “Noah’s Arc” about a homosexual black man and his friends in Los Angeles, a reality series about opening a gay bar and the stand-up comedy series “Wisecrack.”

H. New Jersey court says no to gay marriage

Press Enterprise, June 15, 2005

A state appeals court ruled Tuesday that New Jersey’s Constitution does not require the recognition of gay marriage, rejecting the efforts of seven same-sex couples who sued the state to allow them to marry. The panel, in a 2-1 decision, affirmed a lower-court ruling that said legislators must change marriage laws before same-sex couples can wed.

I. Gay pride grows nationwide

Press Enterprise, June 27, 2005

Undeterred by recent setbacks in the push to legalize same-sex marriage, tens of thousands of festively dressed people marched in parades around the country to celebrate the 35th anniversary of gay pride. People celebrated in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Atlanta, and other cities. The annual parades commemorate the Stonewall uprising of 1969, a series of fights between gays and police in New York widely considered the beginning of the gay-rights movement.

J. Spain Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

The New York Times, June 30, 2005

The Spanish Parliament gave final approval today to a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, making Spain only the second nation to eliminate all legal distinctions between same-sex and heterosexual unions. The measure, passed by a vote of 187 to 147, establishes that couples will have the same rights, including the freedom to marry and to adopt children, regardless of gender. Spain is the fourth country to legalize gay marriage, after Canada, Holland, and Belgium.

K. Vote seals gays’ right to marry

Press Enterprise, June 29, 2005

The House of Commons voted to extend marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples throughout Canada despite strong opposition from the Conservatives and a splintering of the governing Liberal Party caucus. The vote sealed two years of provincial court decisions that gave same-sex couples the right to marry in eight of 10 provinces and one of the three northern territories.

Though the vote was largely symbolic, gay-rights leaders hailed it as a milestone because it was the first time a Canadian legislative body had voted to change the traditional definition of marriage beyond a union of a man and a woman.

L. Church's Ruling Unit Backs Gay Marriage

The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 5, 2005

The United Church of Christ's rule-making body voted overwhelmingly yesterday to approve a resolution endorsing same-sex marriage, becoming the first mainstream Christian denomination to do so. The vote is not binding on individual churches and could cause some to leave the fold. Roughly 80 percent of the representatives on the church's 884-member General Synod voted to approve the resolution yesterday, a day after a smaller committee recommended it.

M. Lutherans reject loosening rules on gays

Press Enterprise, August 13, 2005

A national meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America rejected a proposal that would have allowed gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy under certain conditions. The measure would have affirmed the church ban on ordaining sexually active gays and lesbians, but would have allowed bishops and church districts, called synods, to seek an exception for a particular candidate if that person was in a long-term relationship and met other restrictions. Delegates voted against the measure 503-490; the proposal needed a two-thirds majority to pass.

N. Fighting a conflict within

Press Enterprise, July 31, 2005

Military officials and psychologists fear that the number of women returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) with post-traumatic stress disorder and other problems will be higher than that of women from previous wars. Post-traumatic stress disorder is a combat-related, long-term problem that causes symptoms such as anger, anxiety and irritability. In addition to combat-related stress, women in the military may deal with sexual abuse or harassment by men in their own units. There can also be the stress of leaving family behind. In 2002, there were 24 cases of sexual abuse reported from Iraq and Afghanistan, in 2004 the number increased to 123 cases.

O. Trust Fund to Study Same-Sex Benefits

The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 30, 2005

A board that oversees health-care benefits for state workers voted unanimously yesterday to study the possibility of extending coverage to same-sex partners and unmarried heterosexual couples who live together. The Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund board will examine how other states have implemented domestic-partner benefits for public employees, as well as the approach taken by private and nonprofit corporations.

P. Chicago Politicians Divided on Gay Games

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 21, 2005

The five Republicans on the county board withdrew their names from a routine proclamation welcoming the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago. The Illinois Family Institute is urging Democratic commissioners to do the same. "There's a big difference between tolerating and celebrating homosexuality," said Peter LaBarbera of the group. The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the ceremonial proclamation without opposition last month as one of a group of routine measures.

Q. Two Academies Faulted on Treatment of Women

The New York Times, August 26, 2005

Hostile attitudes and inappropriate treatment of women persist at the United States military Academy and the Naval Academy, a committee appointed by the Pentagon said in a report. The panel called on the academies to improve training of prospective officers, saying the value of women in the military should be better emphasized. It said present training regarding sexual harassment and assault was inadequate, resulting in misunderstandings by cadets and midshipmen about how to obtain medical care, counseling, and legal assistance. The report was compiled by the Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, which was made up mostly of military officers and experts on sexual harassment and assault. Earlier studies focused on the Air Force Academy. Last year, nearly 150 women came forward with accusations of sexual assault there by fellow cadets from 1993 to 2003. Many said they had been punished or ostracized by commanders for speaking out, or had simply been ignored.

R. Gay man wins ruling

Press Enterprise, August 14, 2005

A federal appeals court ruled that an AIDS-afflicted gay man who fled Mexico because he feared persecution is eligible for political asylum in the United States. The decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed rulings by immigration courts that had ordered the deportation of Jose Boer-Sedano, a Mexican national. Boer-Sedano argued for asylum, claiming he would face persecution in Mexico. He said a police officer there had forced him to perform sex acts under threat of being outed or killed and he feared returning.

S. Harassment lawsuit gets justices' OK

Press Enterprise, August 12, 2005

A former L'Oreal USA Inc. sales manager can sue the cosmetics company for allegedly retaliating against her when she refused to fire a counter saleswoman whom a manager thought was unattractive, according to a ruling by the California Supreme Court. The decision was the second time in as many weeks the justices clamped down on sexual harassment in the workplace, allowing women to sue who were not directly harassed. "An employee's refusal to follow a supervisor's order that she reasonably believes to be discriminatory constitutes protected activity," Chief Justice Ronald M. George wrote for the majority.

T. Wal-Mart challenges bias suit

Press Enterprise, August 9, 2005

Wal-Mart Store's Inc., the world's largest private employer, urged a federal appeals court in San Francisco to dismiss a lawsuit alleging that female employees were discriminated against in pay and promotions. The Bentonville, Ark.-based retailing powerhouse says the conventional rules of class actions should not apply in this case because its 3,400 stores operate like independent businesses. If companywide gender discrimination is proven at trial, it could force Wal-Mart to pay billions of dollars to women paid less than their male counterparts, with no opportunity to dispute their individual circumstances.

U. A dad's transformation disturbs some at school

Press Enterprise, July 30, 2005

Some Riverside County elementary school parents are threatening to enroll their children elsewhere if a father who wears makeup, skirts, and high heels is allowed to volunteer in the classroom. Alex Rivas, whose son is in first grade at Temescal Valley Elementary volunteered last year as a man and wants to help again this year. Some parents say the change in Rivas is unsettling to their children and inappropriate fodder for discussion with such young kids. Rivas

who has begun the first steps toward eventual sex-reassignment surgery, wants to reassure the other parents.

V. Gay-wedding foes sue Lockyer

Press Enterprise, August 3, 2005

The sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage and strip same-sex couples of domestic partnership rights sued California's attorney general over the title and summary the state prepared for the group's signature-gathering petitions. The lawsuit claims that Attorney General Bill Lockyer inaccurately described the measure by highlighting its effects on registered domestic partners instead of explaining that its chief purpose was to "preserve marriage as a union between a man and a woman."

W. Gay-nuptials ruling won't be rushed

Press Enterprise, August 11, 2005

The California Supreme Court said Wednesday it would not immediately decide whether a state ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, keeping gay marriage off-limits while leaving the issue if legal limbo. Attorney General Bill Lockyer and others wanted to by-pass an appeals court hearing to expedite a definitive ruling from the state's highest court. They asked the justices to directly review the trial judge's ruling. The case will remain before the 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco, where it is likely to take months for a decision on the controversial issue that voters could face next year.

X. Sex activity by boss tied to harassment

Press Enterprise, July 19, 2005

A manager who's engaged in sexual relations with subordinates can create a hostile work environment, resulting in sexual harassment of other employees who are not involved, according to a California Supreme Court ruling. The case involves former employees at the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla who complained about then-warden Lewis Kuykendall, who was sexually involved with at least three women at the same time. Nathan Barankin, a spokesman for the Attorney General's office, said the decision is a warning to business owners. "It tells employers that having an anti-nepotism policy is not enough. You need to do more to make sure that you have a hostility-free work environment even when employees are having consensual sexual relations."

Y. Council Backs Gay Marriage

Los Angeles Times, July 13, 2005

A resolution supporting a state bill to give gays the legal right to marry was unanimously passed by the Los Angeles City Council, with members saying the issue was an extension of both the civil rights and women's suffrage movement. But the resolution in support of the state bill is only symbolic.

Z. Country Club Must Make Gays Even Offer

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 2, 2005

California's highest court ruled Monday that country clubs must offer gay members who register as domestic partners the same discounts given to married ones-a decision that could apply to other businesses such as insurance companies and mortgage lenders. The decision by the California Supreme Court dealt with a policy at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego that allowed only the children, grandchildren, and spouses of married members to golf for free.

AA. Gay Men Ponder Impact of Proposal by Vatican

The New York Times, September 23, 2005

Word that the Vatican is likely to issue instructions soon that could bar most gay men from joining the priesthood has set off a wave of anger and sadness among some gay priests and seminarians who say they may soon have to decide whether to stay or leave, to remain silent or to speak out. The fears by gay priests and seminarians intensified this week after news reports from the Vatican that a long-awaited church document will bar gay men, even those who are celibate, from becoming Roman Catholic priests. The church is also beginning an examination this month of American seminaries in which faculty members and students will be interviewed on admission policies, adherence to Catholic moral doctrine, adequacy of preparation for celibacy and whether there is "evidence of homosexuality in the seminary. Gay priests say they are being scapegoated for crimes committed by pedophiles and covered up by bishops who never acted any discipline. The interviews made clear that they now had the strong sense of being persecuted by their own church.

BB. More women admit trying bisexuality

Press Enterprise, September 16, 2005

More women-particularly those in their late teens and 20s-are experimenting with bisexuality or at least feel more comfortable reporting same-sex encounters, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention. The survey found that 11.5 percent of women, ages 18-44, said they've had at least one sexual experience with another woman in their lifetimes, compared with about 4 percent of women 18 to 59, who said the same in a comparable survey a decade earlier.

CC. New season not so gay

Press Enterprise, September 1, 2005

Sixteen homosexual characters are depicted in network TV series scheduled for the 2005-06 season, a small increase over last year, but still inadequate, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said. Out of 710 characters appearing on a regular or recurring basis on the six major broadcast networks in the new season, about 2 percent are gay, lesbian, or bisexual, according to the group's annual study.

DD. Legislature OKs bill allowing gay marriage

Press Enterprise, September 7, 2005

The California Legislature became the first legislative body in the country to allow same-sex marriage, as gay-rights advocates overcame two earlier defeats in the Assembly. The bill's supporters compared the legislation to earlier civil-rights campaigns, including efforts to eradicate slavery and give women the right to vote. The governor is expected to veto the bill.

EE. Stigma silences men, too

Press Enterprise, August 24, 2005

The Bush administration began focusing last year on the growing number of incidents of sexual abuse endured by military women, but a local expert said the number of reports by men of the military sexual trauma has increased. A 1995 Department of Defense study of sexual victimization among active-duty personnel found the following:

- 43 percent of military personnel overall were sexually harassed
- 78 percent of women were sexually harassed
- 38 percent of men were sexually harassed
- 6 percent of women and 1 percent of men reported attempted or completed sexual assaults

- 54 percent of all Department of Veterans Affairs patients reported military sexual trauma

FF. Gay-marriage bill vetoed by governor

Press Enterprise, September 30, 2005

Gov. Schwarzenegger followed through on his promise to veto a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, leaving the issue up to voters or judges, who will likely face the volatile issue in the next year. The governor said the bill by Assemblyman Mark Leno, contradicted Prop. 22, which defines a marriage as only between a man and a woman. Voters approved the ballot measure in 2000. A state appeals court is considering whether the state's ban on gay marriage is constitutional.

GG. Girl expelled over her lesbian parents

Press Enterprise, September 25, 2005

Ontario Christian School expelled a 14-year-old student because her parents are lesbians. "Your family does not meet the policies of admission," Superintendent Leonard Stob wrote to the girl's biological mother. The school's policy states that at least one parent cannot engage in practices "immoral or inconsistent with a positive Christian life style such as cohabitating without marriage or in a homosexual relationship," Stob wrote.

IV. Civil Rights, Social Equity, and Hate Crimes

A. Civil rights charges are filed

Press Enterprise, June 21, 2005

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights is investigating the Riverside County Office of Education after an employee complained that special-education students were being neglected. Marcia Howard, an instructional assistant has filed three complaints against the county office since April. One claims that the county office reassigned her to a lower position in retaliation after she filed the initial complaint that special-education students at Twin Pines High School, which serves juvenile offenders, were not getting the services to which they were entitled. Federal law requires that school districts design Individual Education Plans for each special-education student spelling out the goals and services that student receives. The so-called IEP should be kept on file at the school.

B. Voting rights issue mobilizing activist

Boston Globe, July 26, 2005

With the approaching 40th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, civil rights activists are urging Congress to reauthorize provisions of the law set to expire in two years and mobilizing to clear up misconceptions. The 1965 law includes several additional provisions designed to prevent discrimination, which will expire unless Congress moves to reauthorize them within the next two years. These include poll watchers, federal approval of changes in voting procedures such as altering polling place locations, and requiring multilingual ballots in places with a significant number of people who speak limited English. For voters who experienced the turbulent civil-rights era South, the issue is not about mundane legal terminology but basic rights.

C. In Georgia, Thousands March in Support of Voting Rights

The New York Times, August 7, 2005

Thousands of people marched down Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to mark the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, in an event organized by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and attended by lawmakers and celebrities. The mood was more cautionary than celebratory, with speaker after speaker warning in a rally after the march that the law may not be renewed by Congress when some of its critical provisions expire in 2004. Debate over the law's extension is already under way. Opponents argue that the provisions, put in place to correct Jim Crow-era discrimination,

are no longer necessary, while others say that recent voting scandals show that, if anything, the law should be strengthened.

D. 'Safety net' set up for Iranian-Americans

Press Enterprise, August 5, 2005

Civil rights groups are creating what they call a "safety net" for Iranian-Americans. Organizers of a campaign called "Iranian-American Know Your Rights" will hold town-hall meetings and try to bring together Iranian-Americans with FBI and Department of Homeland Security representatives.

E. Parting Company

Press Enterprise, August 18, 2005

Employers can forbid their workers from going to lunch together, attending each other's weddings, or doing anything else they might want to do with each other outside of work. There's nothing in the federal labor laws to prevent it. Federal regulators were recently asked to strike down a company's rule that prohibits employees from getting together away from work. The National Labor Relations Board, which enforces labor laws, refused to do that in the case involving an employee of a security company.

F. Justice finally arrives

Press Enterprise, June 22, 2005

Forty-one years to the day after three civil-rights workers were beaten and shot to death, an 80 year-old former Ku Klux Klansman was found guilty of manslaughter in the slayings. The jury of nine whites and three blacks took less than six hours to clear Edgar Ray Killen of murder but convict him of the lesser charges in the 1964 killings that galvanized the struggle for equality and helped bring about passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

G. Hate crimes rise since blasts

Chicago Tribune, August 4, 2005

The London police said that crimes motivated by religious hatred had increased to 269 incidents reported in the three weeks since July 7, up from 40 in the same period last year. Most of the incidents involved verbal abuse, physical attacks or vandalism to buildings, including mosques. The statistics feed into revived challenges to Britain's longstanding policy of multiculturalism. Britain differs from the United States in that it does not try to assert a single national identity over immigrant groups or expect that immigrant minorities will strive for integration.

H. Study reports drop in hate crimes

Press Enterprise, July 24, 2005

A new state study found that the overall number of hate crimes in California dropped 5.5% last year to the lowest number in a decade, but crimes against blacks, Hispanics, and Asians increased. For the third consecutive year, the number of hate crimes decreased from 1,491 to 1,409 from 2003 to 2004, according to a report by Attorney General Bill Lockyer. The study found that anti-white hate crimes decreased 28 percent from 85 to 61; anti-gay crimes fell 22 percent from 337 to 263; and religion-motivated hate crimes dropped 7 percent. Crimes against people of Arab or Middle Eastern descent showed the greatest decline, dropping 35 percent from 161 to 105, according to the report. Anti-Hispanic hate crimes jumped 34 percent to 138. Crimes against Asian/Pacific Islanders rose 4.6 percent to 69. Anti-black hate crimes rose 8 percent to 500, and accounted for the largest percentage—35 percent—of the total number of hate crimes.

I. Southern California Mosque Vandalized

Council of American-Islamic Relations Press Release

The Southern California office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA) called on the FBI to investigate vandalism at the Ahlul Bayet Mosque in Pomona as a possible hate crime. Mosque spokesman Basam Alhussaini contacted CAIR-LA and reported that the vandalism took place in the evening. Alhussaini told CAIR-LA that the vandals destroyed the walls, carpet, windows, and doors of five classrooms in the mosque. Pornographic pictures were also posted in the prayer area.

J. Muslims' Reports of Bias Rose in 2004

Los Angeles Times, July 29, 2005

The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Southern California reported that in 2004 it processed 307 hate-incident reports and civil rights discrimination cases, 86 more than the previous year. However, there is no way of knowing if there was an actual increase in the number of incidents or just a rise in reporting them. The increase reported by the council marks the highest number of Muslim civil rights discrimination cases reported to the organization's Anaheim office in its seven-year existence, officials said. The national organization in May reported 1,552 cases for 2004. The findings paint a bleaker picture than a state report released this month that showed a dramatic drop in crimes against people of Middle Eastern descent, who include Muslims and non-Muslims. The report by the state attorney general compiled only hate crimes investigated by authorities.

K. Federal Officials Monitor Voting

Los Angeles Times, July 22, 2005

The Justice Department has sent monitors to polling places in Los Angeles this year to determine whether the city is violating the federal Voting Rights Act by not providing official ballots in languages other than English. Los Angeles prints sample ballots in English as well as Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. But at polling places, the official ballot is available only in English, and voters are asked to use their sample ballot as a guide to translate. In other audits this year, the U.S. Justice Department concluded that three smaller cities in Los Angeles County violated the law by printing official ballots only in English; it reached agreements with the communities to provide official ballots in other languages in the future. Riverside County uses a touch-screen voting system, which prompts voters on a video monitor to specify whether they prefer English or Spanish.

L. Jewish academy in Palm Desert vandalized

Press Enterprise, August 9, 2005

A Jewish academy in Palm Desert was vandalized and officials described it as a hate crime. The back and west sides of the Torah Academy on Santa Rosa Way were defaced by swastikas cartoon characters and the word "trouble." Rabbi Yonason Denebeim, director of Chabad for Riverside County, said vandalism is an ongoing problem.

V. Health, Health Care, and Disabilities

A. Disability Less Likely to Hold Back Youths Following High School

Education Week, August 10, 2005

More youths with disabilities are successfully making the transition from school to higher education, jobs, and adult responsibilities than they did in the late 1980s, according to a federally financed study that has tracked thousands of secondary school students with disabilities over time. The percentage of students completing high school rose from 53.5 percent in 1987 to 70.3 percent in 2003. During the same period, the rate at which students enrolled in any type of postsecondary education rose from 14.6 percent to 31.9 percent. Similar positive gains appeared

in employment.

B. Coach faces trial in assault on disabled player

Press Enterprise, July 29, 2005

A youth baseball coach on Thursday was ordered to stand trial for allegedly promising to pay one of this players \$25 to hurt a 9-year-old mentally disabled teammate. Eight-year-old Keith Reese testified at a preliminary hearing that T-ball coach Mark R. Downs Jr. made the offer before a June 27th playoff game. “He told me that if I would hit (the teammate) in the face, he would pay be \$25,” Reese said. Reese said he had never before warmed up for a game with his mentally disabled teammate. But on that day he did. His first toss hit the player in the groin area. As the boy walked away, he said his coach told him to “go out there and hit him harder.” “So I went out and hit him in the ear,” Reese said.

C. Survey: War weighs on returnees

Press Enterprise, July 29th, 2005

Thirty percent of U.S. troops surveyed have developed stress-related mental health problems three to four months after coming home from the Iraq war, according to the Army’s surgeon general. The survey of 1,000 troops found problems including anxiety, depression, nightmares, anger, and an inability to concentrate. A smaller number of troops, often with more severe symptoms, were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

D. Report says hospital rife with abuse

Press Enterprise, July 29, 2005

The U.S. Justice Department has issued a scathing report about alleged abuse and neglect at one of California’s mental hospitals. The report called suicides, illegal drug use, improper use of restrains, and inadequate medical care “widespread and systematic deficiencies that currently exist” at Napa State Hospital. The report outlined a lack of basic hygiene at Napa including forcing patients to spend 12 hours in soiled diapers; taking two hours to respond to patients’ call lights; and bathing patients as infrequently as every two to four weeks. Hospital staff also punished patients who sought release, failed to provide English interpreter and refused to intervene during violent episodes among patients.

E. Parks to improve access to disabled

Press Enterprise, July 13, 2005

California will repair and remodel its 270 parks to settle a class-action lawsuit charging the nation’s largest state park system has inadequate access and services for disabled visitors. The changes, to be implemented during the next 11 years, could cost the state more than \$100 million, officials said in announcing the settlement.

F. Playgrounds Welcome Kids with Disabilities

Chicago Sun-Times, August 17, 2005

Shallon Kovac loves her school’s new playground, which is designed so that children with disabilities and those without can play together. Kovac, who was attending day camp at Honey Creek Community School and enters Ann Arbor’s Huron High School in the fall, quickly scampered up one side and won the other of the climbing wall. The playground opened in June at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District’s campus west of Ann Arbor. It was the 75th playground to open under the sponsorship of the Connecticut-based National Center for Boundless Playgrounds.

G. People with disabilities go online

Press Enterprise, September 19, 2005

In a move that could turn the broadcasting industry upside-down, People With disabilities Broadcasting Corp. was launched as a charitable tax-exempt media corporation this past July 26, the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's ultimate goal is the develop a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week television channel. Employment of people with disabilities is projected at 17 percent to 25 percent of the initial workforce, including both on-air and off-camera personnel.

VI. Criminal Justice

A. Dozens of inmates hurt in fight at San Quentin

Press Enterprise, August 9, 2005

The largest riot at San Quentin State Prison since 1982 left 42 inmates injured Monday, three of them with wounds serious enough to send them to outside hospitals. The fight broke out between white and Hispanic inmates at 8:40 a.m. in a medium security dormitory-style unit that houses roughly 900 prisoners. Prison officials said as many as 80 inmates in several different buildings were involved in the coordinated attack, with lasted six minutes. It took about 50 officers armed with batons and pepper spray to quell the fight. Authorities could not yet pinpoint what sparked the riot, though they ruled out gang or drug-related activity.

B. Escalating suicide rate hits prisons

Press Enterprise, August 7, 2005

Inmates are killing themselves in California prisons at a record pace, prompting complaints over new security procedures that increasingly isolate mentally ill criminals. Twenty-five inmates committed suicide in the first seven months of this year, compared to 26 suicides for all of 2004. At this rate, the state will exceed its record 36 suicides in 2003. California is on a pace for about 22 deaths per 100,000 inmates. Nationwide, the prison suicide rate is about 13 deaths per 100,000, compared to 11 deaths per 100,000 in the general community.

C. Mixing of guards renews debate

Press Enterprise, August 3, 2005

California's most notorious youth prison was so out of control last month that 30 guards and gang specialist were brought in from the adult prison system to clean things up. Corrections officials say the action at Stockton's N.A. Charderdjian Youth Correctional Facility illustrates how the new combined adult and youth prison system can operate more efficiently under a restructuring that took place July 1, 2005. Meetings are planned soon to increase cooperation between neighboring facilities that once were separated by a bureaucratic divide. Critics say the reorganization blurs the lines between adult and youth corrections.

D. Ban sought on shackling of prisoners giving birth

Press Enterprise, August 1, 2005

In California and across the country, women prisoners are routinely shackled for most of labor and immediately after childbirth—a longstanding practice opposed by a growing number of legislators and even a spokesman for the conservative guards union. A bill introduced by California Assemblywoman Sally Lieber that would ban the practice has moved from the Assembly into the Senate.

E. Sex-assault reports higher at youth jails

Press Enterprise, August 1, 2005

Sexual assaults and other illicit incidents of sexual contact are reported at juvenile prisons at 10 times the rate of adult lockups, a Justice Department Bureau of Justice Statistics report finds. The

research found 10 reported incidents for every 2,000 youths at state-run juvenile facilities. The study did not make a distinction between consensual and non-consensual sexual contact. For people under age 18, any sexual contact is considered illegal.

VII. Assembly Bills or Resolutions

Key Racial Equality Legislation in 2005

Applied Research Center, retrieved August 10, 2005

I. Criminal Justice

A. Amend Three Strikes ([AB 50](#), Leno): Provides new alternatives to limit sentencing for nonviolent crimes and to have sentencing retrials for those already convicted of nonviolent crimes. Seventy-five percent of prisoners under Three Strikes are people of color. Blacks "strike out" for life at nearly 13 times the rate of whites. Latinos are 81% more likely to be in prison with two or three strikes than whites. Contact Maya Harris at [ACLU Racial Profiling Project](#) at (415) 621-2493 ext. 309.

B. Fairness in Sentencing ([AB 125](#), Dymally): Equalizes sentencing for cocaine and cocaine base (crack). In California, Blacks make up two-thirds of those convicted for the possession of cocaine base for sale; Latinos make up 25% of convictions for crack cocaine sale; and whites only 3.4%. Contact Glenn Backes at the [Drug Policy Alliance](#) (916) 444-3751 or Bertha G. Gorman at the [California State Conference of the NAACP](#) (916) 498-1898.

C. Inmate Voting Rights ([AB 821](#), Ridley-Thomas): Requires county election officials to ensure voting rights of eligible inmates such as inmates not yet convicted of a crime, those awaiting a hearing or serving time for a traffic offense or misdemeanor conviction. California must ensure that the criminal justice system does not disenfranchise eligible voters. Contact [Jeff Logan](#) at Assm. Mark Ridley-Thomas (213) 745-6656.

D. Treatment, Not Incarceration ([AB 858](#), Bass): Extends the \$120 million in annual funding for drug treatment alternatives to incarceration under the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Prop 36)—funding will expire after fiscal year 2005-06. Under Prop. 36, approximately 35,000 drug offenders, who are predominantly people of color, are diverted each year to drug treatment instead of prisons. Contact Glenn Backes at the [Drug Policy Alliance](#) (916) 444-3751.

E. California Youth Authority Reform ([SB 609](#), Romero): Closes some of the most problematic youth prisons and begins establishing an alternative system. Over 84% of CYA population are youth of color. Contact Jakada Imani or Celina Ramirez at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights/[Books Not Bars](#) (510) 428-3939.

II. Education Equity

A. Consider Race in Admissions ([AB 1452](#), Nuñez): Authorizes the University of California and the California State University to consider culture, race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, geographic origin, and household income, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions, so long as no preference is given, to help ensure a diverse student body. Between 1996 and 2003, the admission rates dropped by five percentage points for Blacks to 68%

and four percentage points for Latinos to 79%. Contact Francisco Estrada at [MALDEF](#) (916) 443-7531 or [Deborah Doty](#) of Assembly Member Nuñez's office (916) 319-2046.

B. Access to Education Empowerment Zones ([SB 635](#), Alarcón): Establishes an Education Empowerment Zone Authority composed of key state education institutions. This authority would increase college access opportunities for students in education empowerment zones that have low graduation and high poverty rates. Over 1.8 million California students, nearly three in ten, attend racially isolated schools with 90 to 100% students of color. Contact [David Rodriguez](#) at Sen. Alarcón's office (916) 445-7928.

C. High School Exit Exam Penalty Moratorium ([SB 517](#), Romero & [AB 1531](#), Bass): While slightly different in approach, the purpose of both bills is to delay the exit exam penalty until fair test and equal opportunity to learn standards are provided by California. While the failure rates have decreased, recent test data found that approximately 37% of Blacks, 27% of Native Americans, and 61% of English Learners would be stripped of their diplomas if the test penalty was in place. Contact Norman Solomon at [Californians for Justice](#) or Liz Guillen at Public Advocates, Inc. at (916) 442-3385.

D. Bi-Lingual Enhanced High School Diplomas ([AB 1196](#), Coto/Yee): Establishes a State Seal of Bi-literacy to recognize high school graduates who have mastered speaking, reading, and writing skills in one or more languages, including student's native language, in addition to English. One in four California children ages five to 17 years is bilingual. Contact Laurie Olson at [California Tomorrow](#) (510) 496-0220.

E. Asian/Pacific Islander Education Curriculum ([AB 1071](#), Chu): Requires State Board of Education to ensure that state curriculum includes instruction on Asia and the experience of Asian people in the U.S. One in ten students in California are Asian/Pacific Islander. Contact [Rosaline Chan](#) at Asm. Chu (916) 319-2049.

III. Fair Employment

A. Minimum Wage Increase ([AB 48](#), Lieber): Incrementally increases the minimum wage and indexes it to inflation. Seventy-eight percent of low-wage workers earning between \$6.75 and \$7.74 are people of color, the majority of whom are adults working full time. Contact Peter Cooper at the [California Labor Federation](#) (916) 444-3676.

B. Day Laborer Protections ([AB 1379](#), Lieber): Increases protections for day laborers—bill details forthcoming. The vast majority of day laborers are immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Contact Asm. Lieber's office (916) 319-2022.

C. Equal Opportunity Jobs Program ([AB 124](#), Dymally): Requires each state agency to establish an equal opportunity program to ensure equal access to state jobs and training. California employs nearly 220,000 workers, 46% of whom are people of color. Contact Assembly Member Dymally's office at (916) 319-2052.

D. Employee Discrimination Protections ([AB 195](#), Dymally): Authorizes State Personnel Board to award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to an employee when there is a finding of discrimination. There are approximately 1,500 job discrimination complaints filed annually.

Contact Assembly Member Dymally's office at (916) 319-2052.

E. Unpaid Wages/Overtime Protection ([SB 174](#), Dunn): Strengthens rights of low-wage employees (less than twice the minimum wage) to take civil action to recover unpaid wages or overtime compensation. Seventy-eight percent of low-wage workers earning between \$6.75 and \$7.74 are people of color, the majority of whom are adults working full time. Contact Senator Dunn at (916) 445-5831.

F. Credit Scoring Discrimination ([SB 986](#), Escutia): Prevents the use of credit reports to discriminate in the hiring, promotion, reassignment or retention of an employee, unless it relates directly to skills necessary to complete the job. Individuals without a bank account or credit card may have poor credit ratings, even if they are not in debt. About three fourths (76%) of Blacks and two-thirds (65%) of Latinos say they have a bank account, while nearly all whites (95%) have an account with a bank. Just over half of Blacks (54%) and Latinos (51%) report they have a credit card, compared to nearly four in five (77%) whites. Contact [Menachem Krajcer](#) at the Applied Research Center (510) 653-3415 ext 307.

IV. Health Access

A. HIV/AIDS Prevention ([AB 1142](#), Dymally): Establishes a Statewide African American HIV/AIDS Initiative to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the health of African Americans by coordinating prevention and service networks around the state and increasing the capacity of core service providers. Blacks make up half of newly diagnosed AIDS cases. Contact Bertha G. Gorman at the [California State Conference of the NAACP](#) (916) 498-1898.

B. Charity Care ([SB 24](#), Ortiz): Requires hospitals to establish charity care and reduced payment policies for low-income families and the uninsured. People of color make up three of every four uninsured Californians—over half of all uninsured are Latino. Nonprofit hospitals would be required to dedicate a percentage of net revenues towards charity care. Contact Patty Diaz at [Coalition for a Healthy California](#) (916) 448-3234. Also see [AB 774](#), Chan.

C. Hospital Closure Notification ([AB 126](#), Dymally): Ensures 60 day notification to Department of Health Services of any county hospital closure that results in reduced services and access for indigent care. Recent hospital closures have been in core urban areas. Contact Assm. Dymally at (916) 319-2052.

V. Immigrant Rights & Language Access

A. New Californians Initiative ([AB 930](#), De La Torre/Torrico): Provides naturalization funding to local governments and community-based organizations to assist legal permanent residents with obtaining citizenship. Nearly 33,000 immigrants each year will be assisted through this initiative. Contact Jannette Zanipatin at [California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative](#) (916) 448-6762.

B. Drivers' License ([SB 60](#), Cedillo): Reintroduces last year's driver's license bill. The Applied Research Center is concerned that current provisions may result in racial profiling and

discrimination by the Department of Justice. Contact Assm. Cedillo at 916-445-3456.

C. Child Translator Ban ([AB 775](#), Yee): Prohibits any state or local agency from using any child as an interpreter in any hospital, clinic, or physician office in the context of diagnosis and treatment. All agencies, organizations, or programs receiving state funds must establish procedures for providing competent translation services that do not involve the use of children. One in five—6.2 million—California residents are limited-English proficient. Contact Assembly Member Yee at (916) 319-2012.

D. Translation of Parental Notification ([AB 680](#), Chan): Requires Department of Education to better monitor parental notification in their primary language as part of compliance review of public schools. Strengthens translation reporting requirements. Forty percent of all Californians speak a language other than English at home. Contact Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality at 916-321-9001.

VI. Protections against Racial Violence and Discrimination

A. Hate Crimes Prevention ([AB 723](#), Chu): Establishes a Hate Crime Curriculum and requires instruction for grades K-12. Nearly two-thirds of all hate crimes are motivated by race and ethnicity. Contact Rosaline Chan at Assm. Chu's office (916) 319-2049 and Bertha G. Gorman at the [California State Conference of the NAACP](#) (916) 498-1898.

B. Truth & Healing Commission—Mexican Repatriation ([SB 645](#), Dunn): Establishes a temporary commission to gather facts, hold hearings, and conduct study of unconstitutional removal and coerced emigration of U.S. citizens and legal residents of Mexican descent between 1929 and 1944. Establishes a reparation fund and allows for families whose rights were violated to seek legal action and damages. Over half a million immigrants and citizens were forced out of the U.S. during this time. Contact [Senator Dunn](#) at (916) 445-5831.

C. Racial Mascot Ban ([AB 13](#), Goldberg): Establishes the Racial Mascots Act, which would prohibit public schools from using the term "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. One hundred and eighty-four California schools currently have Native American mascots—fewer than ten use the term "Redskin." Contact Assembly Member Goldberg at (916) 319-2053.

D. Human Trafficking ([AB 22](#), Lieber): Establishes as crimes punishable as felonies the trafficking of adults and minors for forced labor, services, or sexual servitude. Provides various sentencing enhancements for these offenses. Approximately 17,500 people are trafficking into the U.S. each year—East Asia (7,000), Latin America (5,500), and Europe/Eurasia (5,500) account for the vast majority of victims. Contact Namju Cho at [Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking](#) (213) 385-5584 ext. 25. Related bills: [AB 41](#), Yee; [ACR 33](#), Lieber; and [SB 180](#), Kuehl.

E. Credit Scoring Profiling ([SB 603](#), Ortiz): Prohibits insurers from using credit ratings, reports, and other scoring models in determining automobile and property insurance policies. State Departments of Insurance across the country are finding a strong correlation between race and lower credit scores, even after controlling for income, educational attainment, marital status, urban residence, the unemployment rate, and other socioeconomic factors. Contact [Menachem](#)

[Krajcer](#) at the Applied Research Center (510) 653-3415 ext. 307.

VII. Public Benefits Access

A. CalWORKs Bill of Rights/Stop the Clock ([AB 503](#), Lieber). Establishes a bill of rights for CalWORKs, stops time limits during education and work activities, and credits time back for months where rights are violated. Contact Anita Rees at [LIFETIME](#) (510) 452-5192.

B. CalWORKs and Food Stamp Access ([AB 696](#), Chu): Removes bureaucratic red tape by establishing semiannual predetermination of benefits and eliminates the costly and inefficient fingerprinting of families when applying for assistance. Nearly one million children receive CalWORKs assistance. Eight in ten are children of color—half are Latino, 19% Black, and 11% Asian. Eight percent of families receiving CalWORKs and 75% of families receiving Food Stamps are people of color. Contact Rosaline Chan at Assm. Chu's office (916) 319-2049 and the [California Food Policy Advocates](#) at (415) 777-4422.

C. Restoration of Benefits ([AB 855](#), Bass): Restores CalWORKs assistance for people convicted of drug-related felonies if they meet probationary requirements. Approximately 24,100 adults would regain eligibility under this law--two-thirds of the families impacted are Blacks and Latinos. Contact [Jennifer Gunderson](#) at Assm. Bass's office at (916) 319-2047.

****Please detach and return survey with the self-addressed envelope included in your packet**

1. This publication been helpful or informative to your office.

1	2	3	4	5
strongly	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly
agree				disagree

2. Do you currently have a mechanism for analyzing and distributing knowledge regarding legislative issues?

Yes No

3. How can we make this information more accessible to your organization?
